



UFMCC THIRD WORLD MINISTRIES

To: All UFMCC Congregations

Re: The UFMCC 1984 International Third World Lesbian and Gay Christian Conference

Dear Friends;

Planning for the UFMCC 1984 International Third World Lesbian and Gay Christian Conference has begun. The Conference will be held in New York City on October 5-7, 1984. The theme of this next conference is "You shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace", taken from Isaiah 55:12. It is our hope that all who attend will be certain of God's guidance and participation in his or her liberation.

Some exciting things are happening with this next conference that I want to share with you. Firstly, I have invited several non-UFMCC organizations to co-sponsor the conference. The reasons for this are to include more people and resources. As a result, so far the conference co-sponsors are the Union Seminary Gay and Lesbian Caucus and the Gay Christian Men's Alliance (an organization consisting primarily of Black Gay men who belong to various Black denominations in New York and several members of Harlem MCC). Other Third World religious organizations throughout this country as well as several groups here in New York will also be invited to share in sponsoring the conference. This has already resulted in the conference being held at Union Theological Seminary at very little, if any, cost to UFMCC, since we do not have much money with which to work.

Secondly, the programing for this conference will be done by a team of individuals from various racial groups to insure inclusivity. This team will begin to meet regularly after the first of the year. One of the tasks of the co-ordinating team will be to develop ways in which to include non-Third World persons in the conference in a constructive, non-threatening manner. It will also handle areas such as housing, worship, outreach, and entertainment.

All in all, our next conference will be wonderful for everyone. But, WE NEED YOUR HELP!! As you know, there is very little money in the UFMCC budget with which to do this conference. I am asking that every UFMCC congregation designate Sunday, January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - as THIRD WORLD MINISTRIES SUNDAY. In response to this, it is requested that each congregation take a special offering or plan a special fund raiser for the conference. It is further suggested that pastors and worship coordinators plan to include Third World issues in the program of the congregations on or around that date. If I can help in any way with this please, let me know.

As plans for the 1984 conference develop more, I will let you know. Please, help to make this a conference that all of us will be proud of and empowered by. May God continue to bless and keep you all.

Peace and unity,

Renee

Rev. Renee McCoy

Ps. Check should be made payable to:
MCC's Third World Conference.

cb harlem mcc · pob 574 · ny, ny 10030

REGISTRATION FORM

Rev. Renee McCoy
c/o Harlem MCC
P. O. Box 574
New York, NY 10030

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

COUNTRY _____

I WILL NEED HOUSING IN PRIVATE HOME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP. SEND MORE BROCHURES, POSTERS, ETC. FOR ME TO DISTRIBUTE _____

FEE ENCLOSED \$25.00 _____ \$15.00 _____

Department of Church Services
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OCTOBER 5-7, 1984 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

a
christian
conference
for
Lesbians
and
gays
of color

YOU
SHALL
INDEED
GO
OUT
IN
JOY!!!

THE UFMCC SECOND INTERNATIONAL THIRD WORLD LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

"You shall indeed go out in joy and be led forth in peace."

Isaiah 55:12

COMING OUT AND GOING FORTH

The theme of this year's conference comes from Isaiah 55:12. In this passage the Prophet speaks of a New Exodus, a time for all of the people of God to stand together to do the work of God's liberation process and experience the magnificent joy of God's love. In response to this call Lesbians and Gays of Color will come together from around the world to develop ways through which we as Christians can make God's love and justice a reality for all people. We will address issues of relevance to our lives as People of Color so that we can collectively work to make a difference - a better, Christian Difference - in our lives, our communities, and our churches. We will strengthen one another with God's help and guidance, so that more and more of us can COME OUT into the world proudly as Christians and GO FORTH into our communities living full, rich lives, and empowering others to do the same. We are assured that God has, as with the people of Israel, seen our oppression and that God is committed to ending that oppression.

The Conference is open especially to Lesbians and Gays of Color (Blacks, Native Americans, Hispanics, and Asians). However, it is a Christian conference and all persons are welcome.

WHAT IS THE UFMCC?

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) is an INTERNATIONAL DENOMINATION of Christian churches which proclaims liberation for ALL people. It is noted, primarily, for its special outreach to Lesbians and Gays, sharing with them the message of God's unconditional love and acceptance.

Founded in 1968, the UFMCC has grown to over 200 congregations in over nine countries. We are strongly and seriously committed to the struggle for human rights in which all people, regardless of race, gender, or sex-

ual preference, are engaged. We actively fight against all forms of racism, sexism, and other -isms that oppress and divide the people of God.

HAPPENINGS AT THE CONFERENCE

It is the aim of this year's conference to provide those who attend with skills that will be helpful to them in their own areas. There are three main categories of emphasis: Consciousness Raising, Informational and Instructional. The following is a partial listing of these. There may be more topics added by the start of the conference.

Consciousness Raising:

- *Racism among Third World peoples
- *White racism
- *Self-hatred among Third World Lesbians and Gays
- *Women and Men working together: is it possible?

Informational

- *AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- *The politics of Third World Peoples
- *International issues
- *Lesbian and Gay prisoners and ex-offenders
- *Homosexuality and the Bible
- *Issues facing Third World Lesbian and Gay churches

Instructional

- *How to "come out" to family and friends
- *How to do community organizing
- *How to be a good administrator
- *How to house the homeless and feed the hungry
- *How to network
- *How to do fund raising
- *How to heal ourselves and one another
- *How to make connections with mainline churches



PLUS...

There will be time set aside for racial caucuses, including space for white who attend to get together and decide how they can better work with Peoples of Color.

PLUS, PLUS...

- *Worship services
- *Panel presentations
- *Slide presentation
- *Entertainment
- *Parties
- *AND MORE!!!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE

Registration fees for the conference are \$25.00 for those who are employed, and \$15.00 for students, seniors, and unemployed. To register, just complete the attached registration form and return it along with the necessary fee to Rev. Renee McCoy c/o Harlem MCC; P.O. Box 574, New York, NY, 10030. Make checks payable to MCC'S THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE.

We want all who desire to be able to attend. If money is a problem, please write a brief letter stating your situation and return it to Rev. McCoy at the above address.

Housing will be provided for those outside of the New York area with persons living in New York City. A list of hotels and motels in the area will be sent to all who register. Housing in private homes is on a first-come first-served basis.

For more information contact: Rev. Renee McCoy c/o Harlem Metropolitan Community Church, P.O. Box 574, New York, NY, 10030

SPECIAL THANKS

We are deeply grateful to the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of Union Theological Seminary for their assistance and co-sponsorship of this conference and to United Faith Affinitas Church of Chicago for their continued help and support.